

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 239

By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Mary Alice Peake McClellan for earning a Bachelor of Science degree after fourteen years of dedicated study while working, raising children, and running a business independently.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should honor and recognize those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Mary Alice Peake McClellan is one such estimable person who has labored honorably in an array of positions, working assiduously to improve the quality of life for herself and her family in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born November 17, 1941, in Buffalo Valley to Eugene and Lillian Peake of Algood, Mary Alice Peake later married John Lee McClellan, the first African-American man elected to the Putnam County Court; and

WHEREAS, Judge McClellan's death in 1973 left Mrs. McClellan with a family to care for on her own; and

WHEREAS, despite her lack of formal education, Mrs. McClellan was not without foresight and dedication; with an interest in bettering herself and her family's future, she obtained an General Educational Development Diploma (GED) while working and raising her son; and

WHEREAS, understanding the importance of education and its positive impact upon all of her future endeavors, she resolutely began her pursuit of a college degree at Tennessee Technological University by attending classes during her lunch hour or in the evenings while also working a job and operating her own business; and

WHEREAS, after fourteen years of diligent study and powerful commitment, Mary Alice Peake McClellan was granted a Bachelor of Science Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies on December 18, 2004, thereby achieving one of her lifelong goals; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected twenty-two year employee of the Putnam County Health Department, Mrs. McClellan has served as an exemplary role model for women, parents, and indeed all Tennesseans who face hardships with courage; and

WHEREAS, witnessing her drive and industriousness, Mrs. McClellan's children, following a course which their mother so determinedly modeled for them, have also benefited from her example and achieved success; and

WHEREAS, her son, John Howard McClellan, earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Grambling University and serves as a Juvenile Probation Officer for Metropolitan Nashville, and her step-daughter, Shirley McClellan Marchbanks, has achieved a Master's Degree in Special Education from Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. McClellan is also a devout member of Burton Chapel United Methodist Church in Algood, which she has served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, having performed her duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism, Mary Alice McClellan and her many achievements can only be categorized as outstanding and are attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and steadfast conviction; and

WHEREAS, Mary Alice Peake McClellan is an superb individual who has exemplified outstanding determination and tenacity in her pursuit of achieving personal, professional, and academic excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Mary Alice Peake McClellan, a woman of great character and fortitude, for earning a Bachelor of Science degree after fourteen years of dedicated study while working and raising children, and we extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.